

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

50X1

23 JAN. 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~



50X1

1. Laos

50X1

b. On Sunday an enemy force attacked and captured Na Mo, in north west Laos. No details are available.

c. Information now available on the action around Mahaxay suggests that the government forces did not do too well. US officials in the field attribute their lack of success to the presence of greatly increased Viet Minh forces. They have raised their estimate of Viet Minh strength in Laos from 3,500 to a minimum of 8,000.

2. Punta de Este:
Corollary developments

a. Cuba has asked the countries which attended the Belgrade conference last fall to support its position. Cuba has also tried to lessen Latin American disapproval by allowing some of the Cubans who have taken asylum in Havana embassies to leave the country.

50X1

b. Cuban military activity around Guantanamo has increased; the base notes the emplacement of artillery and the establishment of road-blocks.

c. Embassy Buenos Aires reports that Argentine military leaders met with armed forces leaders of unspecified neighboring countries last weekend to urge them to press for stronger action against Cuba.

NOTE:

[Redacted]
[Redacted]
[Redacted]

50X1
50X1
50X1

3. Venezuelan pot bubbles

Public disorders continue. (The bomb explosion in the US Embassy yesterday was a Communist operation.) Betancourt is [] aware of [] plots to overthrow him [] An attempt from either the right or left seems quite possible.

50X1

50X1

50X1

4. []
Jordanian government performance

Inept diplomatic handling of recent events in Syria, Lebanon and Kuwait has left Jordan virtually isolated in the Arab world, while the public is more and more attributing government inefficiency and lack of progress in domestic programs to the King himself. Husayn would like to replace Prime Minister Talhuni, but is having trouble finding a successor.

50X1

50X1

5. [] India []

[] trying to get Soviet and Western suppliers to compete for Indian orders.

50X1

50X1

50X1

50X1

6. Communist China tries to improve relations with Egypt

The two have been at odds for several years. The Egyptians, []

[] are now discussing several aid projects with the Soviets; a show of interest in the Chinese approach is to be expected, if only as an attempt to pressure the Soviets to grant them more aid. []

50X1

50X1

7. Political crisis in
Tanganyika

Prime Minister Nyerere has resigned, leaving his most loyal lieutenant as premier. He apparently hopes to free himself to deal with extremists in his own party. The latter, feeding on the continued presence of British advisors and the inevitable failure of independence to solve all problems quickly, had grown strong enough to challenge his control. The immediate issue was their demand for the Home Affairs Ministry, which controls the police.

LATE ITEM

8. Difficulties in
Iran

Demonstrations continued today. The opposition National Front (Mossadeq's party) has called a general strike, but is handicapped by the arrest of many of its leaders. Government security officials believe the situation could develop into something very serious, because the left and right may be able to combine to cause the downfall of the Amini government.

NOTES

- A. The East German regime plans to run a conscription law through its parliament, which opens tomorrow, in addition to the customs bill which we reported yesterday.
- B. Relations between Cambodia and South Vietnam have again been badly strained by an incident Sunday, in which South Vietnamese fighter planes shot up a Cambodian border village.
- C. The UN has turned Gizenga over to Adoula's government.
- D. There was an unsuccessful attempt to assassinate King Mahendra of Nepal yesterday.

E.

F.

50X1

DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

I.

A rectangular box with a thin black border, used to redact information.

50X1

LATE ITEM

A large rectangular box with a thin black border, used to redact a significant portion of the document.

50X1

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE